

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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THE SCIENCE OF ASTRONOMY

**Abstract**

Why is astronomy not taught as a subject in our schools? What should we do about this? Let's pay attention to the importance of this issue. Despite the fact that we are in an era where plans are being made for life on Mars, students' lack of sufficient knowledge about this field may cause problems in the future. But it is not too late. Perhaps many people will think that the problems of the world cannot be solved only with children. The truth is that most of the world's problems can be solved if we work hard enough on children's education. Every child can do amazing things if they are guided in the right direction. Astronomy has not been taught as a separate subject in schools for several years now. Currently, opinions are being expressed regarding the inclusion of astronomy in the school curriculum. We suggest that the teaching be implemented in a few schools first as a pilot project. It is clear that, first of all, there will be a shortage of specialists who will teach this subject. To overcome this, a training package will be prepared with the help of local and foreign experts. Also, those specialists will provide training to teachers currently working in schools and strengthen their knowledge of astronomy. Astronomy is considered a special branch of physics. Considering this point of view, it is important that the teachers who will teach the subject of astronomy be educated in the fields of physics, mathematics, and geography. Later, those teachers will work with final-year students studying in the mentioned specialties, as well as with students in pilot schools. In the next step, the lack of teaching aids will be eliminated. Professionals working in the field of astronomy will work together to prepare quality teaching materials. Note that these textbooks will be in electronic format. A platform called "Astronomy" will be created to manage this whole process. So, this platform will include teaching materials and interactive tasks. Students will get acquainted with the lesson materials, and they will perform appropriate tasks to strengthen their knowledge. Depending on the achievements, the project will be implemented in other schools. If we work with this algorithm, we can not only increase students' knowledge of astronomy but also create a new workforce.